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BRIEF TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION INQUIRING INTO THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT
OF THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO AREA

#27

The Lakeshore District Board of Education came into being on January 1, 1951.

#27 The Board was given the responsibility of providing education services for the three municipalities of Long Branch, New Toronto and Mimico.

At present there are nine elementary schools and two secondary schools staffed by 165 and 106 teachers respectively. The enrolment is 4,687 in public schools and 1,988 in the secondary schools.

The Board employs seven supervisors of special subjects and services. The administration of the policies and business of the Board is carried out by a Business Director and Superintendent of Public Schools, Business Administrator, Executive Assistant, Superintendent of Buildings and a clerical staff of four full-time and one-half-time persons.

The purpose of this brief is to state concisely the views of the Lakeshore District Board of Education. In political affairs opinions should count, and therefore hope ours will be useful. Although supporting data is not submitted, we would welcome a visit to our school system or a request for further information.

Despite some failures, Metro has had many notable accomplishments and should not be cast away but be continued with improvements.

Suggested Changes

1. A formula for representation could be developed which would be subject to revision at predetermined intervals to reflect population changes.
2. The Metro School Board should be given the power to negotiate a uniform salary schedule. As there are no regulations requiring teachers to live where they work, and the cost of living in the various areas is comparable, it would be fair to have a uniform salary schedule. Furthermore, one voice speaking for all Metro Boards could achieve stabilization.

Reasons for Continuation

1. Our democratic society is based on responsible local government. School Boards administering at the local level are responsive to the needs of their area and are a fundamental example of democracy at work. Total amalgamation or a large borough system would seriously impair this heritage.
2. It would be unreasonable to have Metro pay 100% of the school capital costs because it would encourage a tendency to spend on frills rather than on needs. Thrift seems to diminish in direct relation to the distance between the decision-making and the tax base.

The London School Board of Education was established on January 1, 1871.
The Board was given the responsibility of providing education services for the three million
inhabitants of the Metropolitan Districts, London, Middlesex and Surrey.

At present there are nine elementary schools and two secondary schools established
by 1871 and 1880 respectively. The enrolment is 1,687 in public schools and 1,000
in the secondary schools.

The Board employs seven superintendents of schools, subject and services. The
administration of the policies and business of the Board is carried out by a business
Director and Superintendent of Public Schools, Business Administration, Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent of Buildings and a clerical staff of four full-time and one-half
time persons.

The purpose of this paper is to state concisely the views of the London
School Board of Education. In political affairs opinions should count, and therefore
these views will be stated. Although supporting them is not submitted, we would welcome
criticism to our school system or a request for further information.

Despite some limitations, there has been many notable accomplishments and
should not be cast away but be combined with improvements.

Background and Objectives

A London for representation could be developed which would be subject to
revision at predetermined intervals to reflect population changes.

The Metro School Board should be given the power to regulate a uniform
salary schedule. As there are no regulations regarding teachers to live where they
work, and the cost of living in the various areas is constantly rising, it would be fair to
have a uniform salary schedule. Furthermore, the Board should be given the power to
control school expenditure.

Reasons for Continuation

Our democratic society is based on responsible local government. School
boards are representative of the local level and responsive to the needs of their areas and
are a fundamental example of democratic government. Local administration of a large borough
system would seriously impair this principle.

It would be impossible to have Metro pay 100% of the school capital
costs because it would encourage a tendency to spend on capital rather than on needs.

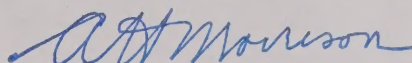
It is seems to diminish the distance between the decision-making
and the area.

For example, Federal and Provincial funds are often looked upon as free money. The virtues of thrift must be preserved if we are to get the most for our educational dollar. The provision that a portion of a capital project be raised by local levy should be preserved, and the decision to spend should be kept as close as possible to those who will pay.

3. The larger the unit of government, the more an elected representative serving on a part-time basis finds it necessary to rely on the bureaucrat. When this happens, the dedicated service of many may be lost along with the training of possible future leaders.

4. The Lakeshore District Board of Education has boundaries which make it a desirable unit. It has the resources to look after itself and carry its share of the Metro load. Population forecasts indicate it might be advisable in a few years to decentralize some of the Metro units that now have big land areas. Therefore, we submit it would be unwise to add our area to a borough which could require a division in our time.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman,
Lakeshore District Board of Education.

December 16, 1963.

